

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:154
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
COMMERCIAL WINGS OF INDIAN MISSIONS ABROAD
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Missions abroad have commercial wings;
- (b) if so, the criteria followed for setting up these commercial wings and the duties assigned to them;
- (c) whether Indian Industries have got any benefits therefrom;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government propose to review the staffing pattern therein; and
- (f) if so, the details in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) Yes.

(b) Commercial Wings are set up keeping in view the potential for growth in trade and other economic ties with a particular country. They constitute the basic institutional framework abroad to promote India's trade and economic relations, by providing market intelligence and other inputs into policy formulation as well as support for various export and investment promotion activities.

(c) & (d) As trade promotion depends on a number of factors, it is difficult to quantify the benefits that directly accrue from commercial wings. However, Indian missions and posts have contributed significantly to the growth in India's exports of goods and services. Indian industries have benefited from the activity of commercial wings in many ways including through dissemination of information related to export promotion and investment activities, market information, trade facilitation of visiting businessmen and delegations and help in resolving trade disputes.

(e)&(f) Appraisals and review of the performance of Commercial Wings of the Indian Missions and Posts Abroad is regularly undertaken.